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#### SUBCHAPTER V—FISHERY MONITORING AND RESEARCH

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#### CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 917, 971b, 971d, 1432, 1827, 3125, 3373, 3377, 3601, 3607, 3631, 4102, 5103, 5106, 5107a, 5107b, 5152, 5154, 5158, 5504, 5609, 6403, 6406, 6409 of this title; title 22 section 1980; title 33 section 1321; title 42 sections 9601, 9603; title 46 sections 12102, 12108; title 48 section 1904.

#### SUBCHAPTER I—GENERALLY

### § 1801. Findings, purposes and policy

#### (a) Findings

The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The fish off the coasts of the United States, the highly migratory species of the high seas, the species which dwell on or in the Continental Shelf appertaining to the United States, and the anadromous species which spawn in United States rivers or estuaries, constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities.

(2) Certain stocks of fish have declined to the point where their survival is threatened, and other stocks of fish have been so substantially reduced in number that they could become similarly threatened as a consequence of (A) increased fishing pressure, (B) the inadequacy of fishery resource conservation and management practices and controls, or (C) direct and indirect habitat losses which have resulted in a diminished capacity to support existing fishing levels.

(3) Commercial and recreational fishing constitutes a major source of employment and contributes significantly to the economy of the Nation. Many coastal areas are dependent upon fishing and related activities, and their economies have been badly damaged by the overfishing of fishery resources at an ever-increasing rate over the past decade. The activities of massive foreign fishing fleets in waters adjacent to such coastal areas have contributed to such damage, interfered with domestic